

Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 /087 W

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R 291239Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7310

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 02770

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, FT

SUBJECT: TFAI

REFS: PARIS 1840 AND 676

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH CHARGE JANUARY 27, SECSTATE FOR OVERSEAS DEPARTMENTS AND TERRITORIES STIRN SAID THE FRENCH ARE IN NO HURRY TO GRANT INDEPENDENCE TO THE TFAI AND THAT IT PROBABLY WILL COME IN ABOUT TWO YEARS. STIRN DESCRIBED FRENCH EFFORTS TO SECURE AFRICAN AND ARAB GUARANTEES FOR AN INDEPENDENT TFAI IN TERMS SIMILAR TO THOSE OF QUAI OFFICIALS WHICH WE HAVE REPORTED EARLIER. HE, TOO, SHOWED MOST RESERVE ABOUT THE LIKELIHOOD OF EVER OBTAINING ADEQUATE GUARANTEES FROM SOMALIA, AND EXPRESSED LESS CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBLE PROBLEMS WITH ETHIOPIA STEMMING FROM ITS CURRENT INTERNAL PROBLEMS.

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2. STIRN SAID LAST WEEK'S TALKS WITH ALI AREF WENT

WELL. HE INDICATED THAT THE TFAI PRESIDENT INTENDS TO PRESS FOR BROADENED SUPPORT, PARTICULARLY AMONG THE ISSAS, AND THAT THE FRENCH ARE NOT NOW BEATING THE BUSH TO FIND ANOTHER, STRONGER LOCAL LEADER.

3. QUERIED ABOUT ANY FRENCH TALKS WITH THE SOVIETS, STIRN SAID FRANCE IS CONSIDERING AN APPROACH TO MOSCOW FROM ELYSEE ON THE MATTER.

4. COMMENT: STIRN'S REMARKS GIBE GENERALLY WITH WHAT THE QUAI HAS TOLD US. HE GAVE NO INKLING, HOWEVER, THAT THE ANGOLA SITUATION HAD LED THE GOF TO POSTPONE ITS PLANNED APPROACH TO THE SOVIETS, AS WE HAD BEEN GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND. WE ALSO THINK INDEPENDENCE IS LIKELY TO COME SOMEWHAT SOONER THAN STIRN PREDICTS. GAMMON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, DEPENDENCY POLICIES, TFAI, SELFDETERMINATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PARIS02770
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760034-0708
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976019/aaaaahps.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 PARIS 1840
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 AUG 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TFAI
TAGS: PFOR, FR, FT, (STIRN, OLIVIER)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006